

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image reading apparatus is provided which is capable of determining an image reading start position without using expensive members such as photo sensors, nor needing positional adjustments. The image reading apparatus of the present invention sets a first carriage 21 at an image reading start position PS upon initialization thereof, carries out shading correction, sets again the first carriage 21 at the position PS, and reads, upon receipt of an image reading instruction, an image of a document placed on a document mounting glass plate 11 by means of the first carriage 21. In this case, a shading correction plate 13 holds reference position patterns K1 and K2 at a reference position PK apart a prescribed distance X0 from the position PS, and a control section detects the reference position by reading the reference position patterns by means of the first carriage, and performs subsequent control by recognizing, as the image reading start position, that position to which the image reading carriage is moved the prescribed distance X0 from the reference position thus detected.